

CLAIM LISTING

The following claim listing will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application.

1 - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A combination comprising a container and a seal-cutting apparatus, the seal-cutting apparatus comprising:

a receiving channel, the channel being at least partially defined by an edge of a substantially planar first surface and a substantially planar second surface, wherein the first surface is substantially perpendicular to the second surface; and

a cutting member located at the second surface and extending toward the first surface; wherein

~~the seal-cutting apparatus is configured to at least partially sever a package seal of a package when the package is translated through the receiving channel and at least partially past the cutting member; and~~

~~the seal-cutting apparatus is configured to be coupled to a package held in the container at an opening defined in the container.~~

11. (Currently amended) The seal-cutting apparatus combination of claim 10, further wherein the package comprises comprising a blister package.

12. (Currently amended) The seal-cutting apparatus combination of claim 11, wherein the first surface is configured to slideably engage at least one blister of at the blister package.

13. (Currently amended) The seal-cutting-apparatus combination of claim 12, wherein the second surface is configured to slideably engage a seal portion of at the blister package.

14. (Currently amended) The seal-cutting-apparatus combination of claim 13, wherein the receiving channel is configured to allow insertion of at least one edge of at the blister package.

15. (Currently amended) The seal-cutting-apparatus combination of claim 14, wherein, when at the blister package is engaged with the first and second surfaces and translated through the receiving channel, at least a portion of the blister package-seal is at least partially severed by the cutting member.

16. (Currently amended) The seal-cutting-apparatus combination of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of said cutting member projects away from said second surface and extends into a relief nick formed at the first surface.

17. (New) The combination of claim 10 wherein the opening of the container is dimensioned such that the seal-cutting apparatus is accessible through the opening.

18. (New) The combination of claim 10 wherein the seal-cutting apparatus is held at the opening by cooperation between detents on the seal-cutting apparatus and slots in the container.

19. (New) The combination of claim 10 wherein the cutting member projects from the second surface toward the edge of the first surface.

20. (New) The combination of claim 10, wherein the seal-cutting apparatus further comprises:

an abutment structure including the first surface; and

a backstop structure including the second surface and a substantially planar third surface adjacent to the second surface, the third surface being generally parallel to the first surface and generally perpendicular to the second surface, the first surface being offset from, and recessed with respect to, the third surface.

21 (New) The combination of claim 20, wherein the backstop structure comprises a recessed seating compartment for receiving the cutting member, the recessed seating compartment being defined in the third surface and opening to the second surface so that the cutting member, when received in the recessed seating compartment, is allowed to project from the second surface into the receiving channel.

22. (New) The combination of claim 21, wherein a cutting edge of the cutting member is disposed below the first surface of the abutment structure.

23. (New) The combination of claim 21, wherein a cutting edge of the cutting member is disposed close to the first surface of the abutment structure.

24. (New) The combination of claim 21, further comprising a securing member for holding the cutting member in the recessed seating compartment.

25. (New) The combination of claim 24, wherein the securing member is received in the recessed seating compartment.

26. (New) The combination of claim 20, wherein the abutment structure has a first height offset from a second height of the backstop structure such that the abutment structure and the backstop structure form a stepped structure.

27. (New) The combination of claim 20, wherein the abutment structure comprises a relief nick positioned along the edge of the first surface, the nick being disposed adjacent to a cutting edge of the cutting member.

28. (New) The combination of claim 11, wherein the blister package comprises a blister, a flanged edge and an underside, and the seal-cutting apparatus further comprises:

an abutment structure having the first surface; and

a backstop structure having the second surface,

wherein the seal-cutting apparatus is configured to at least partially sever the blister package when the blister package is translated through the receiving channel and at least partially past the cutting member.

29. (New) The combination of claim 28, wherein the cutting member is disposed with respect to the first surface such that when the blister of the blister package is brought into abutment with the first surface, the first surface helps to position a perimeter of the blister to be close to a cutting edge of the cutting member.

30. (New) The combination of claim 29, wherein the cutting member is disposed with respect to the first surface such that the first surface helps to position the blister of the blister package above the cutting edge of the cutting member when the blister is brought into abutment with the first surface.